

Pricey cow milk contaminated as melamine scare spreads

Powder milk mixed with cow milk in Nilphamari, doctors say

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Melamine contamination in a few popular foreign brands of powdered milk has made the panicked parents of babies to buy cow milk from the open market, making it pricier in northern districts.

But there are reports of many babies' becoming affected with intestine diseases after taking adulterated cow milk as many traders are mixing low quality powder milk with cow milk to earn high profit.

But the market monitoring by the government agencies is still poor.

Dr Dilip Kumar Roy, child specialist of Nilphamari 100-bed hospital, said anxious parents of infants babies are coming to him to seek advice whether it is right to use cow milk as substitute for foreign powdered milk.

"The babies under six months can take a mixture of cow milk, water and sugar in the proportion of one litre milk, one litre water and one spoonful of sugar. For babies above six months, additional food like khichuri, suji and some other food can be given along with it. But in the both cases, breast-feeding should continue," he said.

"The babies attacked with intestine diseases are being taken to hospitals in large number recently. So special care should be taken so that the babies are not fed with adulterated cow milk. The proportion

should be correct too," Dr Dilip said.

Several parents told this correspondent that fearing melamine contamination, they are avoiding not only powdered milk of eight banned brands but also other brands not yet banned by the government.

They said they are feeding their babies cow milk purchased from open markets.

Sources said taking the opportunity of high demand of cow milk many traders are adulterating cow milk with dirty water of the ponds and canals or some substandard powdered milk smuggled from India. Lack of hygiene sense among a section of cow milk traders adds to the problem.

"I used to feed my six-month-old baby Red Cow and Dano powdered milk. After banning of the two brands, I started feeding him cow milk in recommended proportion. But the baby has got intestine disease caused due to adulterated milk sold in the open market," said Shilu Mia, a trader in Nilphamari.

Ahsan Habib Nilu, in Kurigram, said, "My wife, a college teacher, has to spend most part of the day at the workplace. A woman housekeeper takes care of our six and a half month-old baby. Earlier the child was given powdered milk but after the ban on some contaminated brands, we are giving it cow milk along with other

foods. Fearing adulteration of the cow milk in the open market, I have bought a milking cow to get pure milk so that we can save the baby from intestine disease."

Many parents are rushing to the dairy farms where quality and hygiene are believed to be maintained to some extent but most buyers become disappointed as they fail to get milk even for additional prices.

Ali Akbar, the owner of one of the biggest dairy farms in Kurigram, said the demand of cow milk has increased greatly in recent time. Buyers are coming from distant places, making his daily produce of 70-80 litres of milk sold out in a short time, he said.

The owner of Lalon Palon Dairy Farm at Nilphamari, Belal Hossen said many parents of babies are now dissatisfied with him for failing to supply cow milk as per requirement.

Visiting different cow milk markets in Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts it was found that a litre of cow milk is being sold from Tk 32-Tk 35 which was Tk 25-Tk 26 two weeks back.

Besides adulteration of milk, lack of hygiene makes cow milk unsafe for consumers.

The sanitary inspector of Nilphamari, Hamidul Islam told this correspondent that they would soon launch drive against adulteration of cow milk.



'Birshrestha Hamidur Rahman is pride of the nation'

Discussants say at the hero's 37th death anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Speakers at a discussion held at Hamid Nagar (former Khordhakhalishpur) village in Moheshpur upazila yesterday paid rich tributes to Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman by terming him as our national pride who sacrificed his life for independence of motherland rather than retreating in battlefield during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman Degree College and Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman Death Anniversary Observation Committee jointly organised the discussion in observance of martyrdom anniversary of national hero.

Held at Bir Shrestha Sipahi Hamidur Rahman Smriti Jadughar and Pathagar, the discussion was chaired by Moheshpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Oziur Rahman while it was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Jhenidah Md Abu Masud as chief guest and Chief Executive Officer Nasir Uddin of Jhenidah Zilla Parishad, Captain Alamin Tarafdar, Commander of Joint Forces of Jhenidah and magistrate PK Enamul Kabir as special guests.

Joint Forces Commander Captain Tarafdar said Bir Shrestha Hamidur Rahman will be remembered with gratitude by all irrespective of caste and creed for his supreme sacrifice he made for liberating the country from the occupation Pakistan army.

ADC Abu Masud said he would try to develop Hamidur Rahman College as well as the village roads. He also promised to do his best for upgrading the college to degree level the next year.

While serving at East Bengal Regiment in 1971, Sipahi Hamidur Rahman joined the liberation war and embraced martyrdom during a fierce battle with the occupation forces at Dhali frontier in Sylhet on October 28, 1971.

Earlier, wreaths were placed at his portrait besides holding of Qurkhwani, milad mahfil and feeding of destitutes.

Civil and military officials, journalists, teachers, students, freedom fighters and people from all walks of life attended the ceremony.



Prothom Alo Bandhusava brings out a colourful procession in Chapainawabganj town yesterday marking 83rd birth anniversary of Ila Mitra, the legendary leader of 1948-50 peasant movement in Nachole in Rajshahi.

পাওয়ার প্রীতি কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Institution of Engineers (IEB) New Bhaban (4th floor) Ramna, Dhaka-1000

No-01/PGCB/Sec/08/3993 Date : 28/10/2008

Price Sensitive Information

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its 157th meeting held on Tuesday, October 28th, 2008 at 8.00 pm has taken the following price sensitive decisions, details as under :

1. Recommended Dividend for the year ended 30th June, 2008	The Board of Directors recommended for declaration of Cash Dividend @ 27% per share of TK. 100.00 each for the year ended 30 June, 2008 subject to approval of the Shareholders in the ensuing 12th AGM of the Company.
2. Date & Time of 12th AGM	Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 11:00 am.
3. Venue of 12th AGM	Venue will be disclosed later.
4. Record Date for 12th AGM	Thursday, November 20, 2008 (The Shareholders, whose names would appear as shareholders in the Register of Members including CDBL at the close of business on the Record Date shall be entitled to receive the Dividend, if approved as above.)

By Order of the Board

(Md. Ashraf Hossain)
Company Secretary

Dated: The 28th October, 2008

OC declines to record murder case, alleges victim's mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mother of a teenaged girl who was killed after rape at her master's house here on October 13 brought an allegation against the officer-in-charge (OC) of Khalishpur Police Station for not recording a murder case against the culprits.

Mariam Begum, mother of the ill-fated 14-year-old girl, Akhi alleged this at a press conference held at Khulna Press Club yesterday. She alleged that her daughter was raped and killed at the house of Shahidul Islam, working at Khulna Deputy Commissioner's office as 'Nazir.' Akhi was working at his house as a domestic help for the

last nine months.

Wife of day labourer Shafiqul Islam, Mariam also alleged that Khalishpur Police Station Sub-Inspector Tozammel Hossain who recovered the body of her daughter warned her not to file any case, otherwise he threatened her of dire consequences. He asked her to compromise the culprit. She further said Nazir Shahidul had influenced the OC and other officials of Khalishpur Police Station not to receive any FIR in connection with the murder.

She demanded intervention of the higher authorities of Khulna Metropolitan Police for an impartial investigation into the incident as well as arrest of the culprits.

পাওয়ার প্রীতি কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

No. 01/PGCB/Sec/2008/3930 Date: October 27, 2008

NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION

For Closing Date for Submission of Bid Of

Design-Build and Turnkey Contract for Construction of 400kV Meghnaghat-Aminbazar Transmission Line Project.
(Contract No: PGCB/SPSDP/400KVTL/M-A)

Ref: Memo No. 01/PGCB/Sec/2008/2787 dated July 30, 2008

The closing date for submission of Bids for the above mentioned Project is hereby extended from November 05, 2008 at 11:00 am BST to November 24, 2008 at 11:00 am BST.

All other terms and conditions for the above Bidding Documents shall remain unaltered.

(Md. Ashraf Hossain)
Company Secretary

BNP stronghold in Tangail weakens as 4 bigwigs not in scene

Local party men think of alternatives as four former ministers' participation in polls uncertain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail:

Participation of four former BNP ministers from Tangail is still uncertain as they are either in jail or virtually inactive since declaration of emergency, political circles said.

One of them is in jail, one on the run and two others are virtually absent from their constituencies since 1/11, they said.

In their long absence, local party men are thinking alternatives and the party high ups are also looking for new faces, party insiders said.

Former minister for jute and textile and influential BNP leader from Tangail Shajahan Siraj and his family are absconding since declaration of emergency, police said.

Shajahan Siraj, his wife Rabeya Siraj, son and daughter is convicted in absence in a tax dodging case. Shajahan Siraj, vice president of BNP also faces two more corruption cases, police said.

Shajahan Siraj won from the Tangail-4 (Kallhati) constituency by defeating Awami League (AL) candidate Abdul Latif Siddiqui in election of 2001.

In his absence, Lutfar Rahman Matin, America expatriate Atiqur Rahman Yousufi Salu, former vice president of Government Saadat College Selim Reza and Jatiyatobadi Chhatri Dal leader Benzir Ahmed Titu are seeking BNP ticket from the constituency, party sources said.

Former state minister for NGO affairs Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad is virtually inactive in politics since the emergency.

After 1/11, he was seen only in Tangail court area two times when he went to appear in a cheating case filed with Ghatal police station.

Asma, who gave birth to a girl child 14 days after her husband's killing, and her family members have demanded security of their lives and immediate punishment to the killers.

When contacted, CID officer Abdur Rashid said, "The investigation work is going on. The accused have not been arrested so far for the sake of investigation. They would be nabbed when needed," he said.

A few months ago, Thandu and Nurul got locked into a quarrel over payment of Thandu's salary.

On May 4, Raiganj police recovered Thandu's body from Nurul's



Shajahan Siraj



Abdus Salam Pintu



Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad



Goutam Chakraborty

Ghatal Mayor Abdur Rashid Miah, president of Ghatal Poura unit of, as an alternative, party sources said.

Goutam Chakraborty, former state minister for water resources during 4-party alliance government was seen in his Nagarpur constituency only once since 1/11, partymen claimed.

Goutam won from the Tangail-6 (Nagarpur) in 1996 and 2001 elections by defeating AL candidate Khandaker Abdul Baten.

In Goutam's silence, Nagarpur BNP president Habibur Rahman Chunnu, Barrister Ashek Ali, former JCD central vice-president Robul Islam Lablu, Shorhon Islam Arzu and Ahmed Hossain Swapani are seeking alliance ticket from the constituency, they said.

Former deputy minister for education Abdus Salam Pintu,

Boy freed on ransom payment

AL men demand party candidate in Shyamnagar

JP central vice-president Golam Reza also campaigning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Shyamnagar upazila Awami League

at an extended meeting has

demanded nomination of a party

candidate in Satkhira-5 constituency

in the upcoming national election,

widening the difference between AL

and its possible grand alliance' partner Jatiya Party (Ershad) in the area.

They demanded nomination of

former lawmaker AK Fazlul Haque

while JP central vice-president AHM Golam Reza is campaigning in the area, saying he will get the ticket if his party forms an alliance with AL.

Shyamnagar upazila AL president SM Jagil Haider chaired the meeting held at the party office on Monday. It was addressed by, among others, former AL lawmaker AK Fazlul Haque, Satkhira district AL vice-president Anwar Hossain and other party leaders. The meeting took a resolution demanding candidate of Fazlul Haque and saying local party men will resist AHM Golam Reza if nominated.

Speakers at the meeting said the alliance will lose the seat if Golam Reza is nominated because he got 12000 votes as JP candidate in 2001 election.

Talking to this correspondent, Shyamnagar upazila AL president SM Jagil Haider said, "If the AL-led alliance wants to regain the seat from Jamaat, there is no alternative to nominating former Fazlul Haque".

Contacted, Golam Reza how-

ever claimed that being a man from the area, he has close contact with all the people to win the poll.

Fazlul Haque was elected from Satkhira-5 in 1970 and 1996 elections as an AL candidate.

When contacted, Shyamnagar Police Station officer-in-charge Abdur Razzaq confirmed the incident.